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CH.15 - THE MONSTER'S TRUE FORM

I'M 4 YEARS OLD---
THIS IS LIKE SOME KIND OF BAD JOKE!
I'M EMIRU ARIGA!
I'M 4 YEARS OLD---

IS SHE JUST ACTING? NO... I'M CERTAIN THIS GIRL IN FRONT OF ME
ISN'T THE SAME EMIRU THAT I KNOW!
THANK YOU, MISTER!
EMIRU'S TOO AFRAID TO GO TO THE BATHROOM BY HERSELF WHEN IT'S DARK...
YEAH ...
YOU'RE WELCOME
I NEED TO CALM DOWN AND THINK! SHE'S FOUR YEARS OLD RIGHT NOW ...
THAT'S AROUND THE AGE THAT EMIRU LOST HER PARENTS!
IT'S ALSO AROUND THE SAME TIME THAT ROOM WAS SEALED OFF...
THE REASON FOR HER "DESPAIR" HAS TO BE RELATED TO WHATEVER HAPPENED BACK THEN.

I MIGHT BE ABLE TO GET THE TRUTH FROM HER!
ON MAKARA GA
BAZA ROSH...
HUH?
WHAT DID YOU JUST SAY...?
UMMM ...
IT'S A MAGIC SPELL TO MAKE EVERYONE LIKE EMIRU.
JII-YA* TAUGHT ME IT!

*TLERS NOTE *BUTLER'S NAME *LEARLY CHAPTERS SHE CALLS H MIKURAMOTO
BUTHEKE SHE SAYS "JII YA, KINDA LIKE OLD MAN" UNC E

WILL YOU BE MY FRIEND, MISTER?
BECAUSE MAMA WAS ALWAYS IN THE HOSPITAL.
JII-YA HAD TO TAKE CARE OF ME.
HE TAUGHT ME THAT MAGIC SPELL SO THAT I'D NEVER FEEL LONELY
Y-YES... OF COURSE I WILL.
SO UMMM, WHAT KIND OF GAMES DO YOU PLAY WITH YOUR FATHER?
INAI INAI...? YOU MEAN "INAI INAI BAA"?
NO... WE PLAY "INAI INAI"...
HE PLAYS "INAI INAI"* WITH ME...
*TL'ERS NOTE: INAI INAI BAA IS PEEK-A-BOO

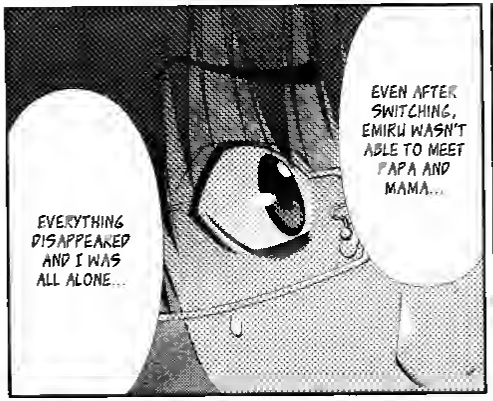
PAPA WOULD COVER HIS FACE
BUT THEN HE WOULD NEVER SHOW IT...
SO THAT'S WHY EMIRU WAS ALWAYS ALONE
I'D STAY IN MY ROOM DRAWING PICTURES
EVEN THOUGH EMIRU WOULD GET BORED WITH THAT GAME, PAPA CONTINUED TO PLAY...

UMMM...
I DON'T WHAT IT'S CALLED AND IT DIDN'T HAVE A FACE...
"MONSTER"..!
WELL... WHAT KIND OF MONSTER WAS IT?
BUT THEN THE MONSTER WOULD ALWAYS APPEAR...
IT'S ALWAYS WATCHING EMIRU...
"CURSE THEM"
IT WOULD ALWAYS SAY
"CURSE THEM"
THE MONSTER SAID IT WAS JEALOUS OF HUMANS WHO WERE ALIVE
SO IT KILLS THEM AND THEN POSSESSES THEIR BODIES
I EVEN DREW A PICTURE OF WHAT IT LOOKS LIKE
THAT'S SCARY, RIGHT?

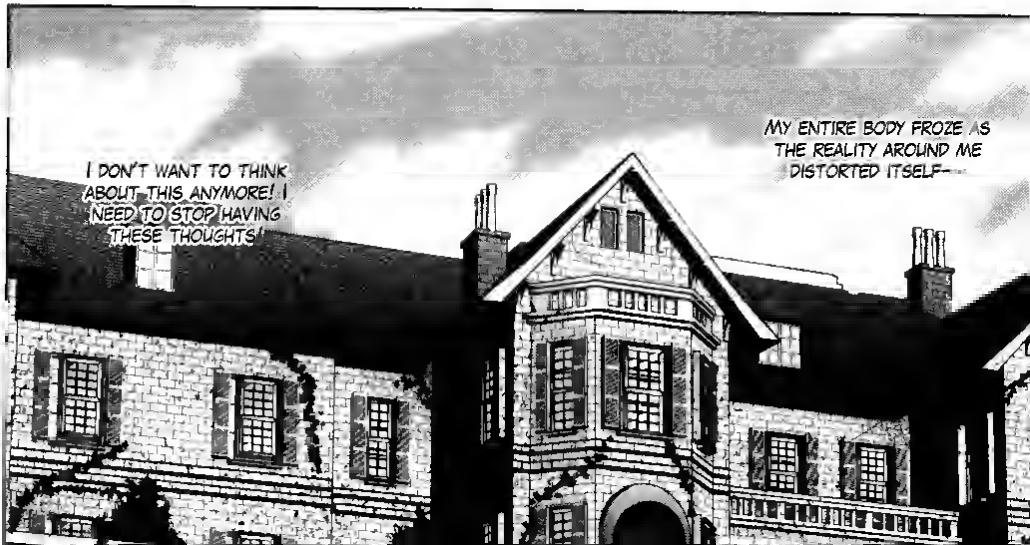
THEN ONE DAY, EMIRU LET THE MONSTER
EAT HER.
YOU LET IT ... EAT YOU?
YUP... BECAUSE ...

IF EMIRU DIED ...
EMIRU WOULD BE ABLE TO MEET HER PAPA AND MAMA THAT SHE MISSES SO MUCH AGAIN IN HEAVEN...

SO WHEN SHE WAS 4, SHE WAS POSSESSED BY A MONSTER?



AT THAT MOMENT IN THE BACK OF MY MIND...
I WAS BEGINNING TO REALIZE SOMETHING I WISH I NEVER HAD TO...
Please get rid of the monster
that pos-sessed Emiru!


I DON'T WANT TO THINK ABOUT THIS ANYMORE! I NEED TO STOP HAVING THESE THOUGHTS!
MY ENTIRE BODY FROZE AS THE REALITY AROUND ME DISTORTED ITSELF...

THERE'S NO WAY THAT RIDICULOUS STORY
CAN BE TRUE!

HMMM... I FEEL FINE..
OH. IT'S NOTHING...
SO HOW DO YOU FEEL?

WHAT'S WRONG, KAZUMA-KUN?
YOU HAVE SUCH A SCARY LOOK ON YOUR FACE

EVEN THOUGH I'M WIDE AWAKE
I FEEL LIKE I COULD FALL BACK TO SLEEP AT ANY MOMENT...
BUT...
I'M JUST A LITTLE TIRED...
HEY, UMM...
NO...
IS THAT SOME KIND OF INCANTATION?
"ON MAKARA GA BAZA ROSH" BEFORE?
HAVE YOU EVER HEARD THE PHRASE...

総合図書館
SHE.. DOESN'T REMEMBER?
OR MAYBE SHE DOESN'T EVEN KNOW...

NO... NEVER MIND...

HER OTHER "SELF"... THAT LITTLE GIRL...
IS SHE A COMPLETELY DIFFERENT EMIRU ARIGA?!

THAT'S NOT POSSIBLE ...

HOW COULD I EVEN THINK OF SOMETHING SO RIDICULOUS?!
BUT... IT'S STILL A POSSIBILITY...
THE DEVELOPMENT OF MULTIPLE PERSONALITIES---
THE MAIN CAUSE OF THIS CONDITION IS WHEN A PERSON EXPERIENCES A TRAUMATIC EVENT OR EXTREME MENTAL STRESS DURING ONE'S CHILDHOOD---
LIKE SEVERE CHILD ABUSE
SEXUAL MOLESTATION
NEGLECT

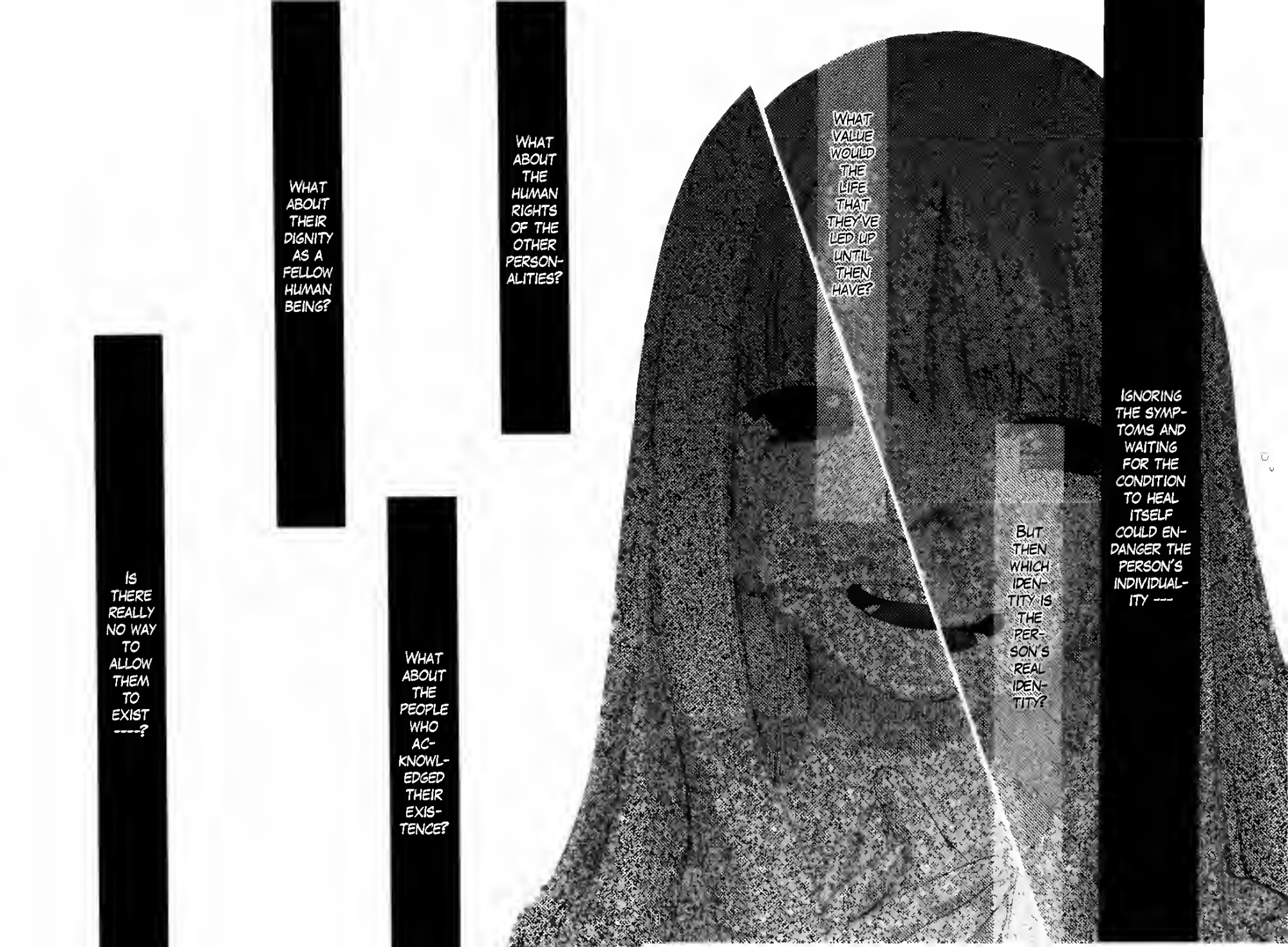
AND EMIRU HERSELF IS UNAWARE THAT IT'S EVEN HAPPENING?!
SO. FOR THE LAST TEN YEARS HER PERSONALITIES
HAVE BEEN SWITCHING BACK AND FORTH

IN A CERTAIN CASE CONCERNING A YOUNG CAUCASIAN MAN---
HIS PERSONALITY SPLIT AFTER A FAILED ATTEMPT AT SUICIDE IN HIS TEENS.
HIS ORIGINAL PERSONALITY BEFORE THE SPLIT SLEPT WITHIN HIM UNTIL HIS 30'S.
UP UNTIL THEN, THE ALTERNATE PERSONALITY HAD COMPLETE CONTROL---

I NEED TO CA[illegible] DOWN...! THIS IS JUST A POSSIBILITY!
BUT IF IT TURNS OUT TO BE TRUE...
WHAT SHOULD I DO TO HELP HER!
THERE'S NO WAY A STUDENT LIKE ME CAN HANDLE THIS...
SHE NEEDS MEDICAL TREATMENT FROM A SPECIALIST...
"MEDICAL TREATMENT"...?

BUT WOULD THEY "ERASE" HER OTHER PERSONALITY—?

TH...THAT CAN'T HAPPEN!!
MAYBE I SHOULD CONSULT OOTSUKI-SENSEI ABOUT HOW TO SAVE EMIRU.
SAVE EMIRU...?
NO! I'M TRYING TO SAVE HER OTHER "SELF"!
THERE ARE SEVERAL METHODS TO COUNCIL PEOPLE WITH MULTIPLE PERSONALITIES ---
FIRST, ONE MUST NEVER DO ANYTHING TO ENCOURAGE THE INDIVIDUAL GROWTH OF EACH PERSONALITY.
みんなのえほん☆
IT IS EXTREMELY IMPORTANT NOT TO HAVE A SYMPATHETIC ATTITUDE
TOWARDS THE OTHER PERSONALITIES OR VIEW THEM SEPARATELY.
カウンセリング
---IN OTHER WORDS
I SHOULDN'T TREAT HER OTHER PERSONALITY AS HUMAN?


WHAT ABOUT THEIR DIGNITY AS A FELLOW HUMAN BEING?
WHAT ABOUT THE HUMAN RIGHTS OF THE OTHER PERSONALITIES?
IS THERE REALLY NO WAY TO ALLOW THEM TO EXIST ----?
WHAT ABOUT THE PEOPLE WHO ACKNOWLEDGED THEIR EXISTENCE?
WHAT VALUE WOULD THE LIFE THAT THEY'VE LED UP UNTIL THEN HAVE?
BUT THEN WHICH IDENTITY IS THE PERSON'S REAL IDENTITY?
IGNORING THE SYMPTOMS AND WAITING FOR THE CONDITION TO HEAL ITSELF COULD ENDANGER THE PERSON'S INDIVIDUALITY ---

IS THE PERSONIFICATION OF EMIRU ARIGA'S "DESPAIR"----

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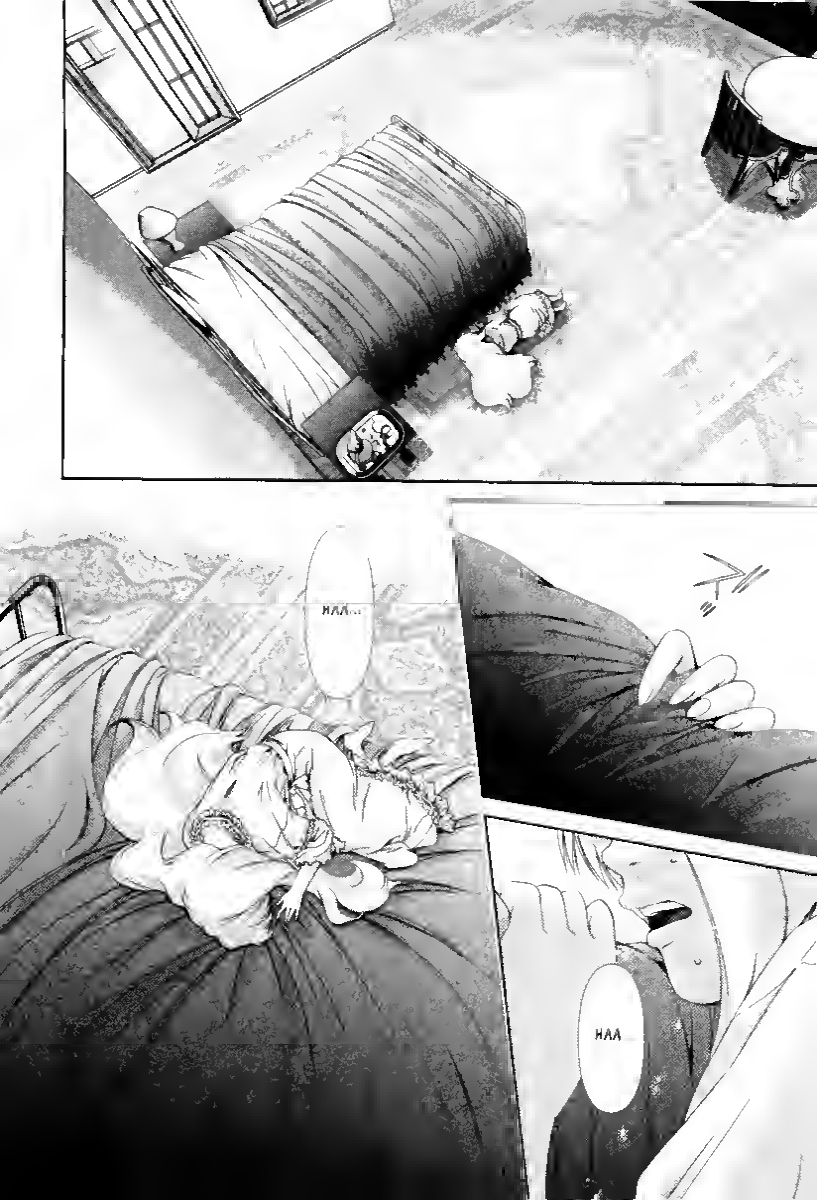
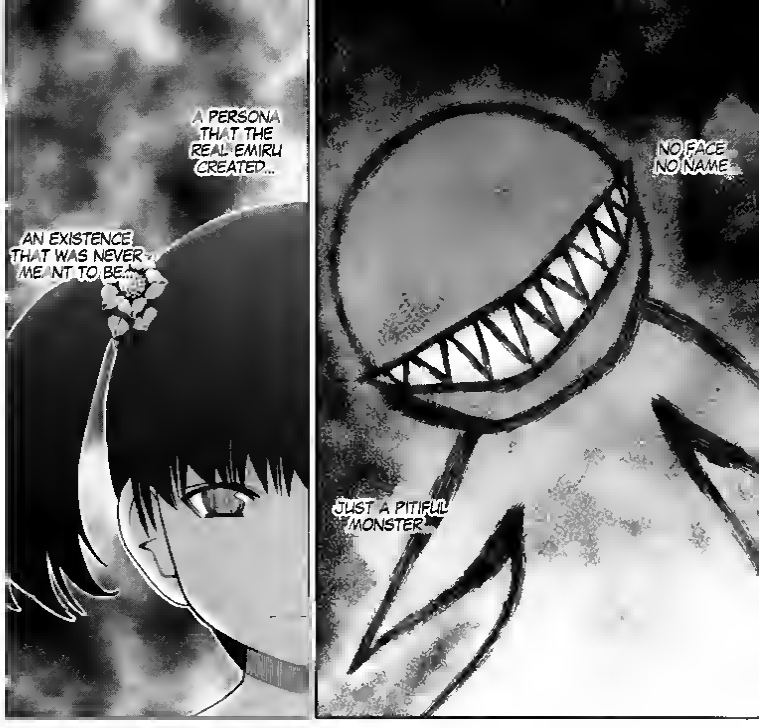
CH.16 - BRACED FOR SORROW


HAA...
HAA...

NOW THAT THE REAL EMIKU HAS RETURNED
I DON'T KNOW HOW MUCH LONGER I'LL BE AROUND
WITH EACH PASSING DAY, I FEEL LIKE I'M SLOWLY GOING MORE CRAZY
I STILL REMEMBER---

WHEN I REALIZED WHAT I REALLY WAS
IT WAS TWO YEARS AGO



CREATED BY A 4 YEAR OLD GIRL WITH A PATHOLOGICAL CONDITION...

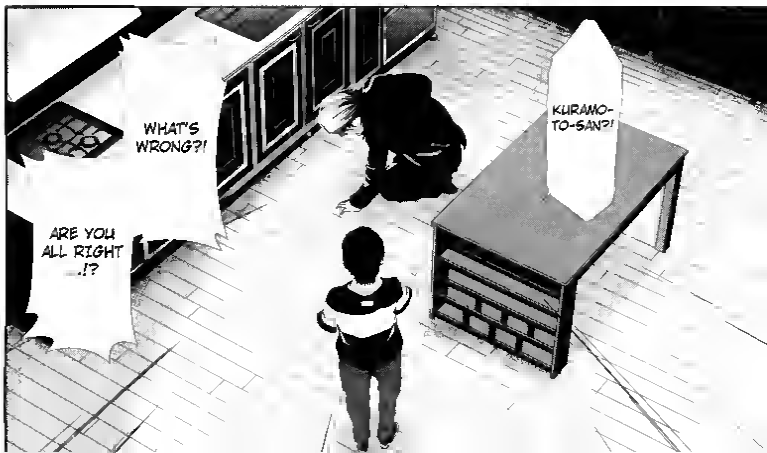
THAT WAS ME----

I REFUSED TO ACCEPT WHO I REALLY WAS AND DESPERATELY TRIED TO STOP IT, EVEN IF IT MEANT TORMENTING MYSELF...
SINCE THEN, I'VE ALWAYS BEEN WORRIED THAT THE DAY WOULD COME WHEN I WOULD DISAPPEAR.
I THOUGHT I'D BE ABLE TO LIVE AS HER FOR THE REST OF MY LIFE---
BUT, I WAS WRONG.
DEEP IN MY HEART I COULD HEAR A VOICE CALLING OUT TO ME...
IN THE END, I SEALED AWAY EVERYTHING THAT WAS "HER" IN THAT ROOM
AND DECIDED TO LIVE AS "EMIRU"---

"I'M STILL HERE!"
I WANTED SOMEONE TO SAVE ME FROM THIS SICKNESS UNTO DEATH---
I DIDN'T CARE WHO I JUST WANTED SOMEONE TO NOTICE

I ALREADY KNEW THE ANSWER...
SAVING THAT LITTLE GIRL
WOULD MEAN SAVING ARIGA EMIRU.
THE 4 YEAR OLD GIRL THAT APPEARED IN FRONT OF ME...
EVEN IF IT MEANS GETTING RID OF HER OTHER PERSONALITY
SHE IS THE "REAL" ARIGA EMIRU!

GOHO ...!!
BUT IS THAT...
REALLY WHAT I WANT TO DO?
GEHO!
GEHO* ...!
*COUGHING SFX


WHAT'S WRONG?!
ARE YOU ALL RIGHT ...!?
KURAMO-TO-SAN?!

KURAMO-TO-SAN!
E...BLOOD?!
ER
MALIGNANT?!
BUT THAT MEANS
THE PHYSICAL EXAMINATION THAT I WENT TO A FEW DAYS AGO... THE DOCTOR FOUND A TUMOR
THEY SAY IT'S MALIGNANT...
I'M ALREADY OLD, SO DEATH WAS ONLY A MATTER OF TIME FOR ME.
THERE'S ONLY ONE REGRET I HAVE THOUGH...

KURAMO-TO-SAN?
I LEAVE THE LADY IN YOUR CARE,
KAZUMA-KUN!
THE TRUTH IS, THAT LADY EMIRU
HAD A VERY UNHAPPY CHILDHOOD
HER MOTHER SPENT MANY OF HER FINAL DAYS IN A HOSPITAL BEFORE SHE DIED.
SHE WAS THE MOST IMPORTANT THING IN THE WORLD TO LADY EMIRU'S FATHER.
THE ONLY THING THAT EXISTED IN HIS WORLD WAS HER...

IT'S OFTEN SAID THAT THE OPPOSITE OF LOVE IS INDIFFERENCE.
TO THIS DAY, I STILL DON'T KNOW HOW MUCH IT HURT MY LADY...
UNFORTUNATELY, IN HIS "WORLD" THAT HE SHUT HIMSELF IN,
EVEN HIS OWN DAUGHTER LADY EMIRU DID NOT EXIST.
BUT THE WAY SHE WAS ABLE TO OVERCOME THE GRIEF OF LOSING BOTH HER PARENTS
SHOWED ME THAT MY LADY WAS ABLE TO GROW UP STRONG AND BEAUTIFUL
SHE WAS LOVED BY EVERYONE
AND WAS FINALLY LIVING A HAPPY LIFE...
I ONLY WISH THAT SHE COULD GO BACK TO THE WAY THAT I REMEMBER HER...

I BELIEVE THE ONLY ONE WHO CAN HELP HER DO THAT...
IS YOU, KAZUMA-KUN!!
I UNDER-STAND
I PROMISE I'LL MAKE IT HAPPEN!
THAT'S RIGHT... UP UNTIL THEN, EVERYTHING WAS GOING RIGHT FOR EMIRU!
IT MIGHT NOT BE THE RESULT THAT THE "REAL" ARIGA EMIRU WANTS...
BUT THERE SHOULDN'T BE ANY REASON FOR ME TO HESITATE

THERE'S ONLY ONE CHOICE FOR ME---

KAZUMA-KUN...
HMMM?
ABOUT OUR COUN-SELING...
THANKS TO YOU, I WAS ABLE TO UNDERSTAND A LOT OF THINGS...
WHAT I'M TRULY AFRAID OF...
WHAT I SHOULD TRULY HOLD ON TO...

DON'T WORRY ABOUT IT...
HUH?
THAT'S WHY THIS TIME...
I WANT TO DO SOMETHING FOR YOU
I SAID YOU DON'T HAVE TO WORRY ABOUT IT!
I'LL TAKE CARE OF EVERYTHING!
I MIGHT BE ILLOGICAL ABOUT THIS...
BUT I DON'T CARE, WHAT ANYONE SAYS...!
THE ONLY EMIRU THAT I LOVE IS YOU...!
THE ONLY EMIRU THAT I KNOW IS YOU...!

I SWEAR I'LL SAVE YOU...!
EVEN IF IT MEANS TURNING THE WHOLE WORLD AGAINST ME...!

IT'LL BE FINE
THERE'S NOTHING FOR ME TO BE AFRAID OF
SHE'S LIVED THE PAST 10 YEARS AS "EMIRU"
SHE'S EARNED THE RIGHT TO LIVE!
SHE'S NOT A MONSTER!
SHE CAN LIVE ON AS THE "EMIRU" THAT I KNOW

UWEEEHH
...
KEH...
I WON'T LET HER DISAPPEAR
BUT IN ORDER TO DO THAT, I HAVE TO STOP THE REAL "ARIGA EMIRU" PERSONALITY FROM COMING BACK...
GEHA!
GOHO!
IT'S OKAY...
I CAN DO THIS...
I'M DOING IT FOR HER...!

EMIRU---
ARIGA
I'M GOING TO HAVE YOU
DIE AGAIN FOR HER SAKE...!

Hidoi~! Translators
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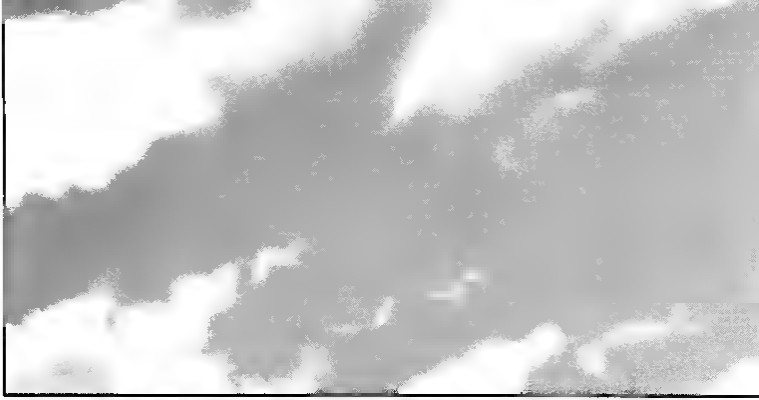
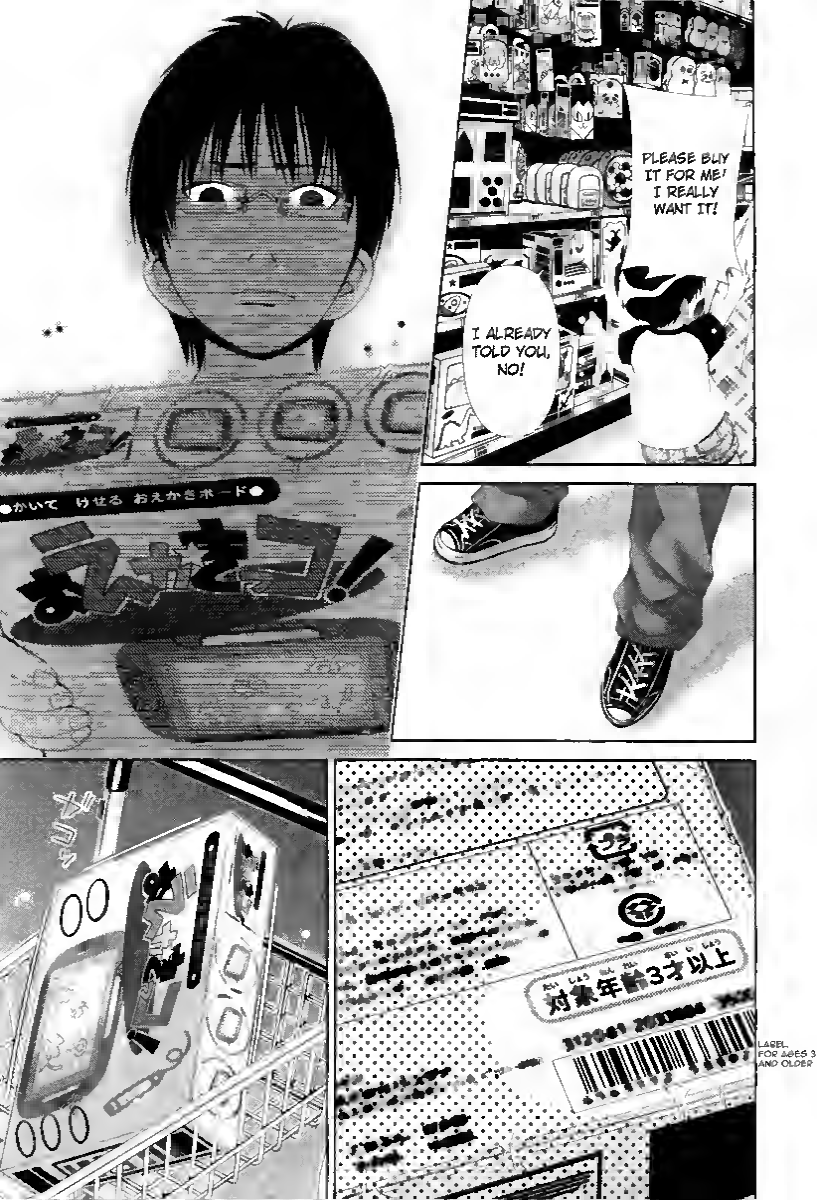
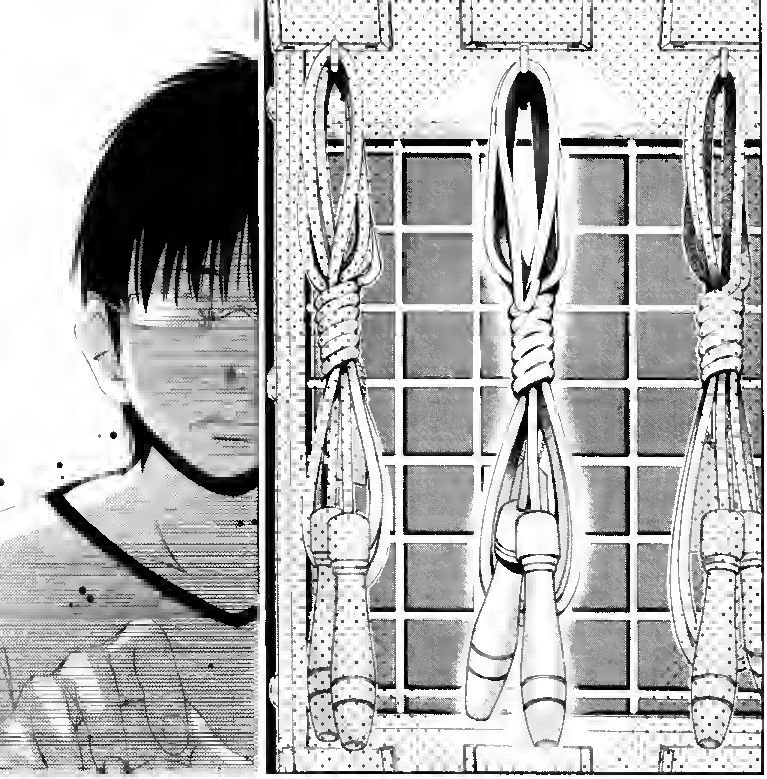
Ch.17 - Verses of a Curse

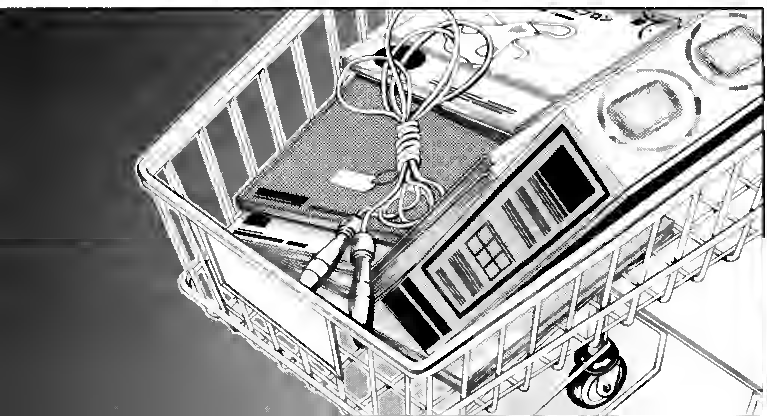


TOY STATION


PLEASE BUY IT FOR ME! I REALLY WANT IT!
I ALREADY TOLD YOU, NO!
●かいて けせる おえかきボード●
対象年齢3才以上
LABEL FOR AGES 3 AND OLDER

心に届く
えほんたち
絵本
コーナー
PICTURE BOOKS SECTION
こびとの国の
おひめさま





IF I DON'T HURRY..
HER MIND WILL FALL APART...

DON'T WORRY, EVERYTHING WILL BE ALL RIGHT.

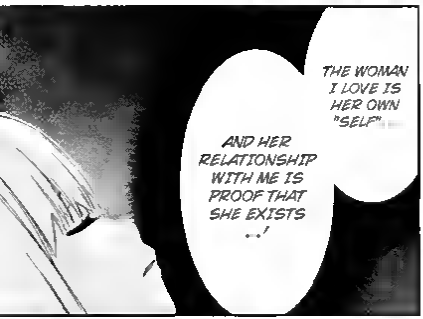
I'LL TAKE CARE OF EVERYTHING...

I PROMISED YOU, REMEMBER?

YOU DON'T HAVE TO WORRY ABOUT IT ANYMORE. YOU CAN LIVE ON AS "EMIRU."

NO MATTER WHAT IT TAKES...
I'LL SAVE YOU FROM THE "DESPAIR" THAT HAUNTS YOU!

IT'S WRITTEN "MAN IS SPIRIT"---



"SPIRIT IS THE SELF."

"THE "SELF" IS A RELATION

WHICH RELATES ITSELF TO ITS OWN SELF----"

PR/N: THIS IS A QUOTE FROM SOREN KIERKEGAARD EXISTENTIAL 1ST PHILOSOPHER

KAZUMA-KUN---- YOUR VOICE IS ABLE TO REACH A PERSON'S HEART...
EMIRU-CHAN...
CAN YOU HEAR MY VOICE, EMIRU-CHAN...?
THERE'S NOTHING TO BE AFRAID OF.
YOU CAN COME OUT, EMIRU-CHAN.
I WANT TO PLAY WITH YOU ...
SO PLEASE COME OUT...

MISTER,
ARE YOU REALLY GOING TO PLAY WITH ME?

MMM...

OF COURSE!
LOOK, I EVEN BROUGHT SOME TOYS WE CAN PLAY WITH!

ARIGA EMIRU...
YOU SUFFERED THROUGH SUCH A PAINFUL AND LONELY LIFE...
YUP!
WELL, WHY DON'T WE READ A PICTURE BOOK NEXT?
YOU'RE REALLY GOOD AT DRAWING, HUH?
I DON'T SEE MY HAPPY ENDING BEING WITH YOU...
BUT THE ONE THAT I'M IN LOVE WITH ISN'T YOU!
I WANT TO CONTINUE MY STORY WITH THE "EMIRU" I LOVE!

DO YOU THINK YOU CAN READ IT BY YOURSELF, EMIRU-CHAN?
SURE! I'LL READ IT TO YOU!
I JUST NEED TO CONVINCE HER...
THE SAME WAY SHE DID IT WHEN SHE WAS 4 YEARS OLD ...
ONCE
UPON A TIME...
I'LL HAVE YOU BELIEVE THAT
YOU DIED ONCE AGAIN ...!

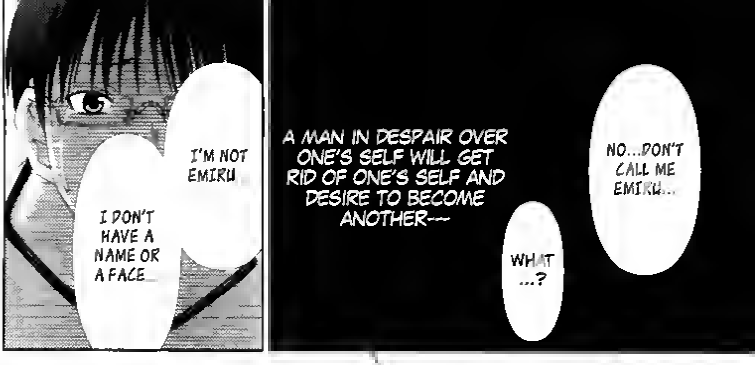
の国のうさー

EMIRU ...
YOU HAVE TO DIE...!
IF YOU DIE, YOU'LL BE TOGETHER WITH YOUR MAMA AND PAPA AGAIN
THIS IS THE ONLY WAY I CAN THINK OF TO SAVE THE ONE I LOVE
DIE...!
FOR HER, I'LL SAY THEM AGAIN
DIE!!

THE VERSES OF A CURSE!
YOU HAVE TO DIE!!
DIE ...!
DIE ...!
PLEASE DIE!!
PLEASE DIE...!
PLEASE DIE FOR ME!
IF YOU DIE, THEN...
ONCE YOU DIE, THEN SHE'LL...
I'M BEGGING YOU...
TO PROTECT HER!!
I'LL KILL YOU AS MANY TIMES AS I HAVE TO
BECAUSE I'LL KILL YOU EACH TIME YOU DO..!
I DON'T CARE HOW MANY TIMES YOU COME BACK

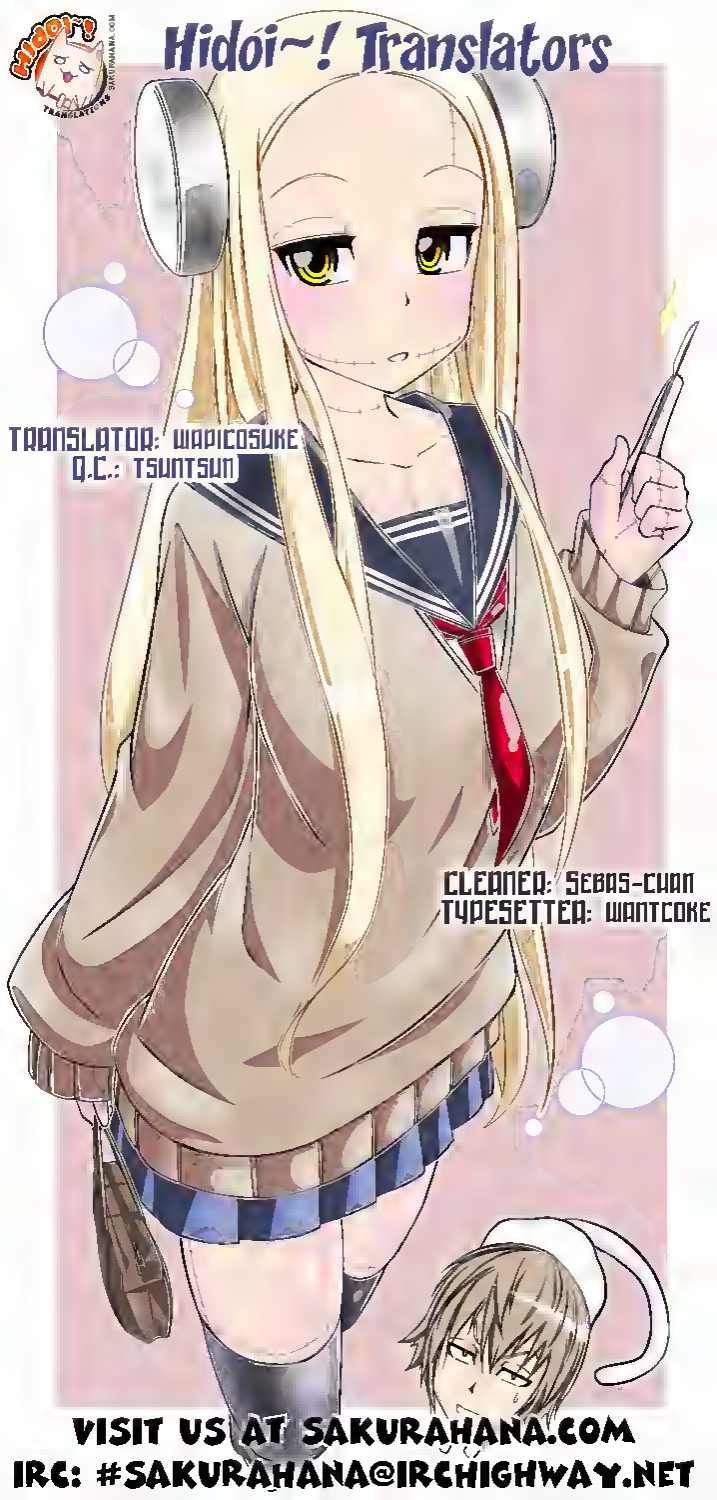
AGH... UGH...
KA...
PLEASE DIE AND NEVER COME BACK...!!!
KAZUMA-KUN..!!

PLEASE.. STOP..!
YOU MUSTN'T DO THIS ...!
*KHO -
KEHO ...
*COUGH NOISES
I WAS DOING IT FOR YOU...
E... EMIRU?
I, I WASN'T TRYING TO, I JUST...


I'M NOT EMIKU
I DON'T HAVE A NAME OR A FACE...
A MAN IN DESPAIR OVER ONE'S SELF WILL GET RID OF ONE'S SELF AND DESIRE TO BECOME ANOTHER---
WHAT ...?
NO...DON'T CALL ME EMIKU...

BUT A PERSON WHO KNOWS TRUE DESPAIR

KNOWS THAT DESIRING TO BECOME ANOTHER WILL ONLY FURTHER ONE'S DESPAIR, AS THAT SELF WHICH HE DESPAIRINGLY WILLS TO BE IS A SELF WHICH HE IS NOT.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CH.18 - YOU'RE RIGHT HERE

IT'S TRUE...
I'M NOT ARIGA EMIRU...
THE REAL ME IS...
WHA...WHAT ARE YOU SAYING...?

TO ME, YOU'RE EMIRU...!
YOU'RE THE REAL "EMIRU"... WHY CAN'T YOU ACCEPT THAT?!
I'VE DONE NOTHING BUT RUN AWAY FROM THAT TRUTH.
NO ONE WANTS TO ACCEPT THAT THEY'RE WEAK AND HELPLESS.
DOING THAT WOULD ONLY LEAD TO SADNESS.
BUT THEN I REALIZED
WHAT I FEARED THE MOST WAS
THAT'S NOT ENOUGH...
PLEASE UNDERSTAND, KAZUMA-KUN!

NOT BEING ABLE TO EXPERIENCE PAIN OR SORROW OR ANYTHING EVER AGAIN!
THAT "NOTHING-NESS"...!

THAT INFINITE DARKNESS THAT I CONSIGNED MYSELF TO...!
YES...
"NOTHING-NESS"...?

IT WAS BECAUSE EVERYONE AROUND ME KEPT ACKNOWLEDGING ME AS "EMIKU"...
AND IF I CONTINUE LIVING ON AS HER,
THEN THE REAL "ME", MY OWN SELF, WOULD NEVER BE ABLE TO EXIST...
A PERSON CAN'T EXIST ALONE
WHAT MAKES A PERSON IS THE RELATIONSHIPS THEY HAVE WITH OTHERS...
I DON'T UNDER-STAND WHAT YOU MEAN
YOU'RE HERE RIGHT IN FRONT OF ME, AREN'T YOU?!
YOU EXIST AS MUCH AS SHE DOES!!

THOSE OTHER PEOPLE REFLECT YOUR TRUE NATURE
IF IT WEREN'T FOR MIRRORS, A PERSON WOULDN'T KNOW WHAT THEY LOOKED LIKE
IT MEANS THAT A PERSON ALONE CAN'T PROVE THAT THEY EXIST.
EVEN IS THE APPEARANCE WAS UGLY AND DISGUSTING,
IF IT ISN'T REFLECTED IN A MIRROR, THEN IT DOESN'T TRULY EXIST---
THAT'S WHY PEOPLE HURT THEMSELVES,
SCREAMING "SOMEONE, PLEASE NOTICE ME!! I'M RIGHT HERE!!"
AND HURT OTHERS, JUST TO PROVE THAT THEY EXIST.
死ね
お前は死
昼通り魔3人殺傷

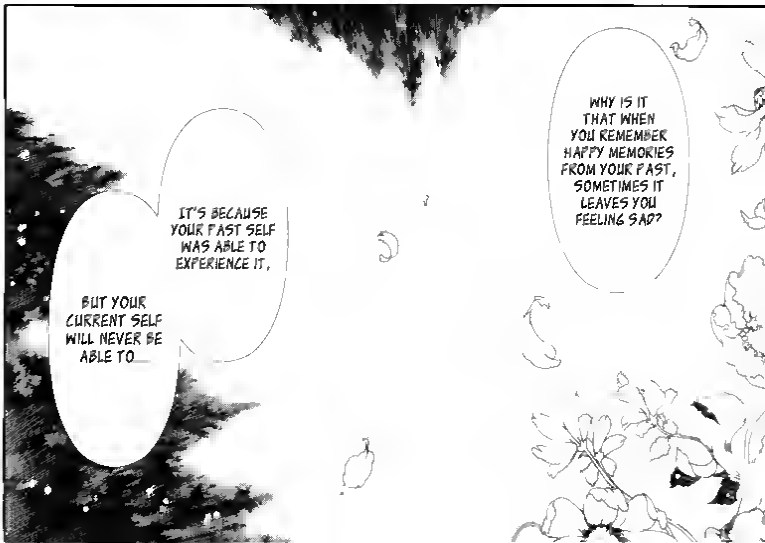
THAT'S JUST THE NATURAL INSTINCT OF HUMANITY...
THEY'RE ALL RUNNING AWAY, TRYING NOT TO BE SWALLOWED UP BY
THE DARK NOTHINGNESS
IT'S PROOF THAT THEY'RE "ALIVE"...
WHICH IS WHY I'M BEGGING YOU, KAZUMA-KUN

I WON'T ASK YOU TO ACCEPT EVERYTHING ABOUT ME ALL AT ONCE
...
I WANT YOU TO SEE THE REAL ME !
DON'T SEE ME AS "EMIRU"
I JUST WANT TO HAVE THE REAL ME REFLECTED IN YOUR EYES .!
OK EVEN END UP HATING ME
...
AND IT'S FINE IF YOU END UP NOT LOVING ME ANYMOKE
I'LL FINALLY BE ABLE TO ESCAPE THE NOTHINGNESS THAT S SURROUNDED ME
THAT WAY, I'LL TRULY EXIST FOR THE FIRST TIME

YOU'LL FINALLY SAVE ME ...
FROM THIS "DESPAIR" ...

PLEASE, KAZUMA-KUN...
YOU'RE THE ONLY ONE THAT CAN HELP ME...!
WHY WOULD YOU GO THIS FAR...
YOU EVEN DID THINGS THAT CAUSED YOU TO DESPISE YOURSELF...?
WILL YOU REALLY BECOME HAPPY THAT WAY?!
I DON'T UNDER-STAND...
.....
IF I TRULY WANTED TO DISAPPEAR AND DIE
I WOULD HAVE LET YOU KILL ME BUT THEN YOU WOULDN'T BE SAVING ME

DID YOU KNOW THAT THE PHRASE "TRY YOUR BEST" CAN SOMETIMES HAVE THE OPPOSITE EFFECT ON A PERSON?
IT'S BECAUSE I'M TRYING MY BEST TO PROVE MY EXISTENCE
THAT THE REAL "EMIRU" IS BEING DENIED THAT CHANCE


WHY IS IT THAT WHEN YOU REMEMBER HAPPY MEMORIES FROM YOUR PAST, SOMETIMES IT LEAVES YOU FEELING SAD?
IT'S BECAUSE YOUR PAST SELF WAS ABLE TO EXPERIENCE IT,
BUT YOUR CURRENT SELF WILL NEVER BE ABLE TO

THAT'S THE IDEAL LIFE THAT I WISH FOR. THE WAY I'VE LIVED UP UNTIL NOW, I FEEL LIKE IT WASN'T MUCH OF A LIFE ...
HAVING HOPES AND DREAMS ...
AND EXPERIENCING THE TRIALS THAT COME WITH THEM...

HAPPINESS AND UNHAPPINESS IS THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN THE REAL ME AND THE "SELF" THAT I CREATED TRYING TO BE EMIKU...
UNHAPPINESS IS MISFORTUNE
THE THINGS THAT MAKE US HAPPY ARE DIFFERENT FROM PERSON TO PERSON.
THERE ARE PEOPLE WHO CAN GO ON SMILING NO MATTER HOW HARD LIFE BECOMES.
AND THEN THERE ARE PEOPLE WHO SMILE ON THE SURFACE, BUT DEEP DOWN INSIDE, THEY WISH TO DISAPPEAR

HAPPINESS IS
GOOD FORTUNE
THAT'S JUST WHAT I AM---
IF A PERSON CAN'T EXIST AS THEIR TRUE SELF,
THEN THEY CAN'T BE HAPPY...
THAT'S WHY I WISH FOR YOU, KAZUMA-KUN
TO LOOK AT THE REAL "ME"...

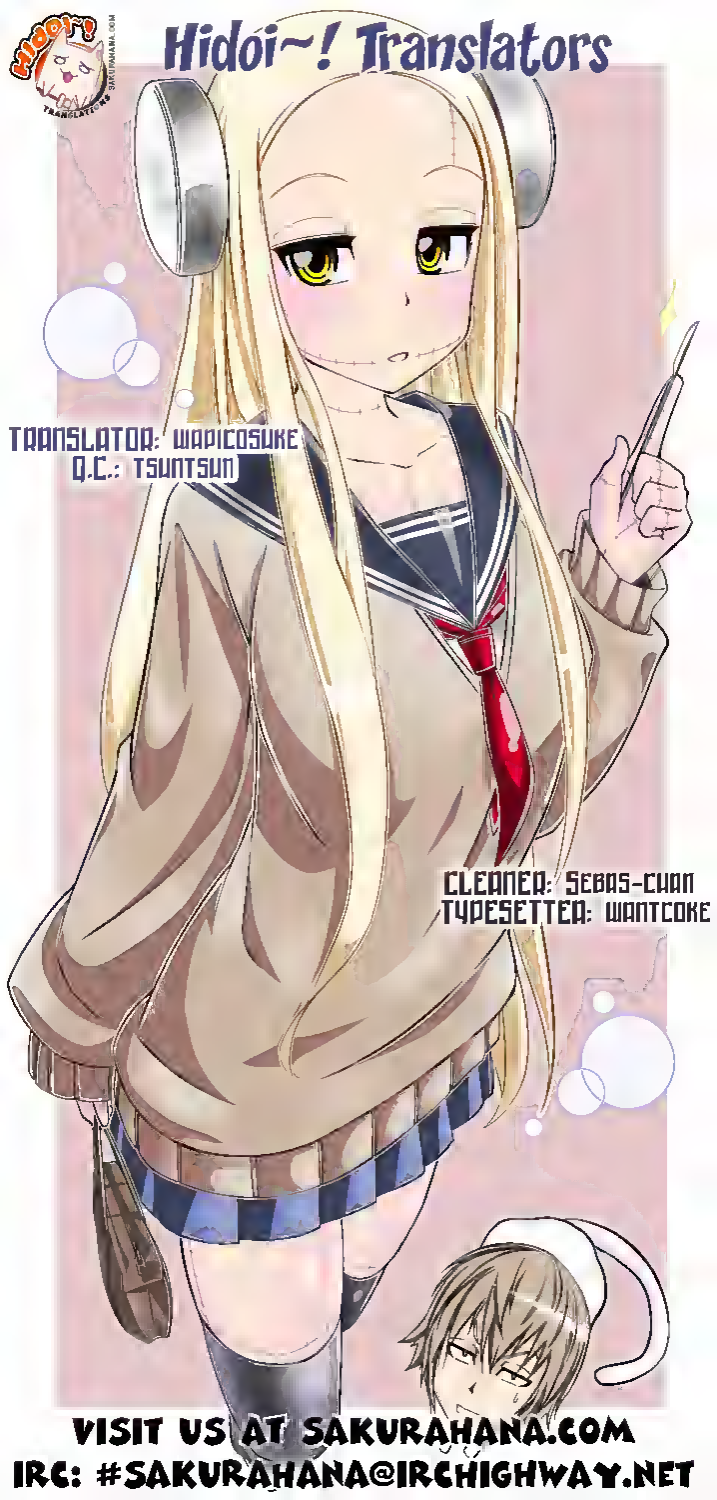
YES...
I CAN SEE THE REAL "YOU"
...
I USED LOVING YOU AS AN EXCUSE TO DO WHAT I DID.
BUT I WAS WRONG. ACCEPTING EVERYTHING THAT MAKES YOU WHO YOU ARE...
NOT TRYING TO RUN AWAY FROM REALITY, BUT TRULY ACCEPTING EVERYTHING ABOUT YOU
...

I WANT THE REAL "YOU" TO EXPERIENCE HOW IT FEELS TO BE LOVED BY SOMEONE...!
I'M LOOKING AT YOU... YOU'RE STANDING HERE RIGHT BEFORE MY EYES...!
THAT IS WHAT IT MEANS TO TRULY LOVE SOMEONE...

JUST AS A CHILD WHO IS SCOLDED BY THEIR PARENT CAN STILL LOVE THEM...
JUST LIKE A DEVOTED FOLLOWER OF A RELIGION WHO DOESN'T FALTER DESPITE NO PROOF OF HEAVEN EXISTING...
THE YOU I SEE ISN'T THE "EMIRU" THAT EVERYONE ELSE REMEMBERS...
I SEE YOU!
IT'S BECAUSE YOU ACKNOWLEDGE THAT A REAL "YOU" EXISTS
THAT YOU'RE ABLE TO EXPERIENCE LOVE...!
THE PERSON THAT I FELL IN LOVE WITH!

AM I REALLY HERE...
STANDING IN FRONT YOU...?
THANK YOU
KAZUMA-KUN...
THANK YOU SO MUCH
EVEN IF YOU THINK OF YOURSELF AS AN UGLY AND EMPTY "CREATION"
YES... YOU ARE.

YOU'RE RIGHT HERE!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NOTICE!?
ALRIGHT LATELY, WE BEEN NOTICING THAT SOME ONLINE VIEWING SITES DON'T FOLLOW OUR RULES *MUMBLES*
- WE ASK FOR A 3 DAYS DELAY PERIOD BEFORE YOU HOST ANY OF OUR RELEASES. ON YOUR ONLINE VIEWING OR DDL SITE.
WE WOULD APPRECIATE IF THIS RULE WAS NOT IGNORED.
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HTTP://TWITTER.COM/SAKURAHANAFORUM

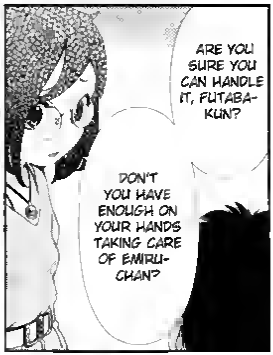
FINAL CHAPTER - THE HAPPY START OF A JOURNEY

WAKE UP, KAZUMA-KUN!
IF YOU DON'T, YOUR BREAKFAST WILL GET COLD!
KAZUMA-KUN...
HMMM...?

A CERTAIN SOMEONE TOLD ME YOU LIKE SWEET FOOD
SO I PUT SOME SUGAR ON IT. IS IT SWEET ENOUGH?
WELL... I ALSO ENJOY REGULAR EGGS, YOU KNOW...
MMM?!
THESE FRIED EGGS ARE DELICIOUS!
GET OUT OF THAT BED RIGHT NOW ---!!
OKAY...
JUST 5 MORE MIN-UTES...
...THAT'S FINE WITH ME.
I'LL SEND YOU A TEXT WHEN I'M DONE WITH MY LAST CLASS.
I'M SURE IT'LL HELP WITH HIS RECOVERY TO SEE THAT I'M DOING FINE.
WHY DON'T WE GO VISIT KURAMOTO-SAN IN THE HOSPITAL LATER TODAY?
SO I WAS WONDER-ING...

LET'S SPLIT UP THE RESEARCH MATERIALS...
OKAY! I'LL TAKE CARE OF THIS ONE!

I GUESS PEOPLE WITH THAT CONDITION REALLY DO EXIST...
AHH THE GIRL WITH THE DISSOCIATIVE DISORDER, RIGHT?
DON'T WORRY! I'M SURE SHE'LL GET BETTER IN NO TIME!


ARE YOU SURE YOU CAN HANDLE IT, FUTABA-KUN?
DON'T YOU HAVE ENOUGH ON YOUR HANDS TAKING CARE OF EMIRU-CHAN?

I HOPE SO TOO . . !

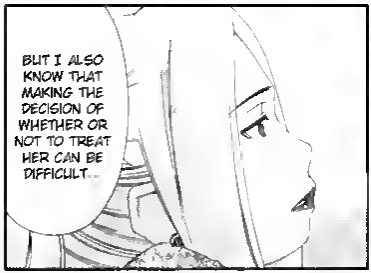
FUTA-BA-KUN!
OOTSUKI-SENSEI...
SO HOW IS EMIRU-CHAN DOING?
THERE HAVEN'T BEEN ANY PROBLEMS...
OTHER THAN HER SCOLDING ME A FEW TIMES A DAY....

NO, NO...
I'M GLAD THAT YOU EVEN TALK TO ME ABOUT HER...

...
I APOLOGIZE, OOTSUKI-SENSEI.
I KNOW I TOLD YOU I'D TAKE CARE OF EVERYTHING WITH HER, BUT...

THAT ISN'T SOMETHING A STUDENT LIKE YOU CAN HANDLE
IF IT WERE ME HELPING THE REAL PERSONALITY OF ARIGA EMIRU WOULD BE MY TOP PRIORITY.

NOT TO MENTION THE "REAL" PERSONALITY ISN'T EVEN AWARE OF IT.
I DON'T KNOW ENOUGH TO GIVE HER A PROPER DIAGNOSIS.
BUT TO THINK SHE LIVED SO LONG UNDER A DIFFERENT PERSONALITY...


BUT I ALSO KNOW THAT MAKING THE DECISION OF WHETHER OR NOT TO TREAT HER CAN BE DIFFICULT...

I'M COUNTING ON YOU TO SAVE HER, UNDERSTAND?
ONCE THE REAL ARIGA EMIRU RETURNS, WE'LL TAKE CARE OF HER REHABILITATION
THAT'S EXACTLY WHY I DECIDED TO LET YOU HANDLE IT
YES!
THOUGH I'M NOT SURE IF I WAS ABLE TO PERSUADE HIM TO MAKE SUCH A DIFFICULT DECISION
BUT IT'S IMPORTANT THAT THE OTHER PERSONALITY DISAPPEARS ON ITS OWN ACCORD
HE WAS SUPPOSED TO INTEGRATE HER OTHER PERSONALITY AND HAVE IT DISAPPEAR

HOWEVER, I'M SURE
THEY MADE THE DECISION TOGETHER.
I'M SURE ONCE SHE EXPERIENCES TRUE HAPPINESS
SHE LOVES HIM---
AND HE LOVES HER JUST AS MUCH---
THAT PERSONALITY WILL DISAPPEAR----

ONCE SHE SATISFIES HER LINGERING REGRETS, SHE'LL NATURALLY PASS INTO THE AFTER-LIFE---
AS IF SHE WERE A GHOST.
THEY'VE OPENED THEIR HEARTS TO EACH OTHER
EVEN KNOWING THAT, THEY STILL CHOSE TO WALK DOWN THAT PATH TOGETHER
AT THE END OF THEIR HAPPY DAYS TOGETHER LIES AN ETERNAL FAREWELL.
NO ONE CAN CHANGE THEIR MINDS ...

GO LIVE OUT THE REST OF YOUR TIME TOGETHER IN LOVING BLISS---
[KAZUMA-KUN...]

[WHAT DO YOU
THINK I AM?]
[I GUESS NO ONE ELSE WAS ABLE TO SEE THE REAL ME
EXCEPT YOU...]
YOU'RE THE WOMAN
THAT I LOVE...
[I REALLY DON'T BELONG IN THIS WORLD, DO I...?]

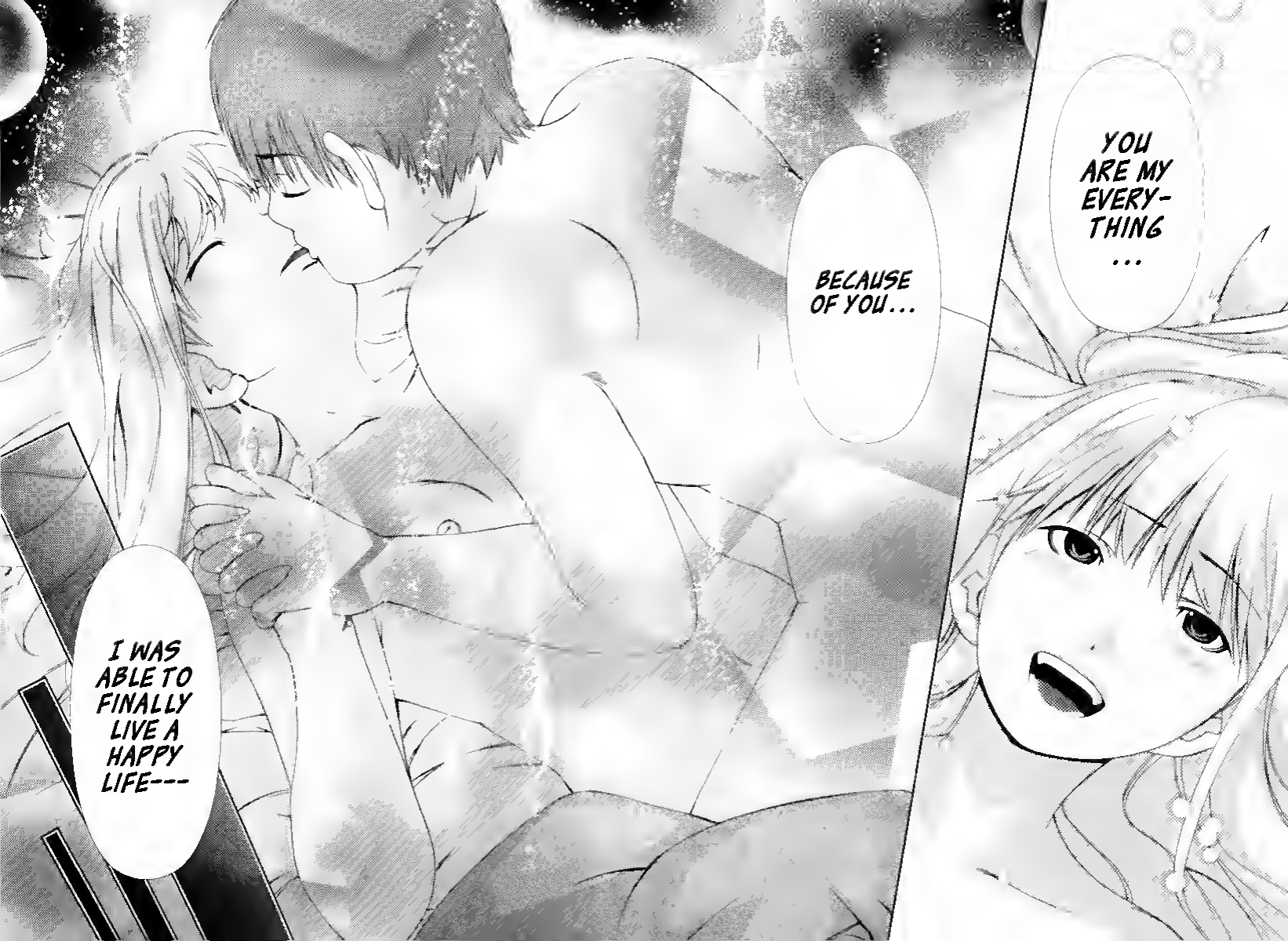
[DO YOU THINK I HAVE A SOUL...?

WILL I JUST DISAPPEAR INTO NOTHING...

OR WILL I END UP SOMEWHERE LIKE HEAVEN...?]

YOU WON'T BE GOING ANYWHERE ...
YOU'LL CONTINUE TO LIVE ON INSIDE MY HEART...!

BELIEVE ME....
THERE'S NOTHING TO BE AFRAID OF..
YOU DON'T HAVE TO WORRY ABOUT A THING.
I'M HERE..
AND YOU'RE HERE LYING WITH ME
I'VE ALREADY ENGRAVED INTO MY SOUL
THAT YOU EXIST RIGHT HERE..!
THANK YOU, KAZUMA-KUN...


YOU ARE MY EVERY-THING ...
BECAUSE OF YOU...
I WAS ABLE TO FINALLY LIVE A HAPPY LIFE---

THANK YOU SO MUCH!

THE FACT THAT YOU FOUND FUTABA-SENSEI, THAT YOU FOUND SOMEONE WHO UNDERSTOOD YOU...
I'M A LITTLE JEALOUS OF THAT...

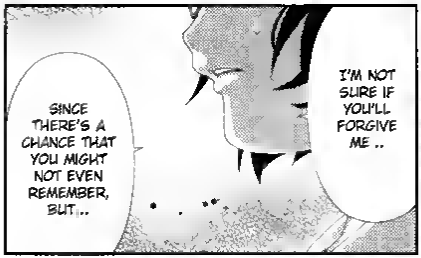
...TO BE HONEST,
BUT...
I DON'T UNDERSTAND WHAT CAUSED YOU SO MUCH SUFFERING...

YOU DON'T HAVE TO ESCORT ME BACK, YOU KNOW? I CAN FIND MY WAY JUST FINE...
I'M NOT A KID ANYMORE.

IS THAT SO...?
OH YEAH, HOW'S OOTSUKI-SENSEI DOING?
SHE'S FINE! THOUGH I ONLY SEE HER ONCE A MONTH THESE DAYS.

EMIRU-CHAN,
THERE'S SOMETHING THAT I NEED TO APOLOGIZE FOR..

ONCE A MONTH, HUH?


I'M NOT SURE IF YOU'LL FORGIVE ME ..
SINCE THERE'S A CHANCE THAT YOU MIGHT NOT EVEN REMEMBER, BUT..

I REMEM-BER.

I SHOULD FOR-GIVE YOU!
I DON'T KNOW WHY,
BUT SOMEHOW I JUST FEEL LIKE
TELL ME, EMIRU-CHAN...
AND...
I FORGIVE YOU~!
♡
DO YOU STILL SEE
THAT MONSTER WITHOUT A FACE OR A NAME EVERY NOW AND THEN?

NO...
I DON'T SEE IT ANYMORE!
BACK THEN I GAVE YOU A VAGUE ANSWER
BUT I THINK I WANTED TO SAVE MYSELF FROM MY OWN STRANGE INSECURITIES
ON THE DAY THAT WE FIRST MET, WE TALKED ABOUT HOW I WANTED TO BE A COUN-SELOR---
YOU ASKED ME IF IT WAS BECAUSE THERE WAS SOMEONE THAT I WANTED TO SAVE...
I SEE... I'M HAPPY FOR YOU!

THE BOOK [SICKNESS UNTO DEATH] DESCRIBES HUMANITY AS BEING BORN INTO DESPAIR.
IT ISN'T JUST YOU, EVERYONE'S TRIED TO CONVINCE THEMSELVES THAT THEIR LIFE ISN'T SO BAD AT LEAST ONCE.
THEY FORGET DURING THEIR BUSY LIVES AND DON'T REALIZE HOW IMPORTANT THAT REALLY IS.
AND THAT'S JUST FINE. MANY PEOPLE LIVE OUT THEIR LIVES LIKE THAT.
BUT IF I EVER MEET SOMEONE WHO FEELS THAT THE WORLD DOESN'T UNDERSTAND THEM, OR THEY FEEL LIKE THEY DON'T EXIST... IF I MEET THAT SOMEONE WHO HAS FALLEN INTO THE "DESPAIR" THAT ALL HUMANITY IS BORN INTO, THEN...

AND THEN I'LL SAY TO THEM
I'LL THEM YOUR STORY,
IN FRONT OF ME]---
[YOU EXIST RIGHT HERE

●初出一覧

第10話　過去の秘密 ……●ヤングアニマル(2009年15号)
第11話　今のえみる ……●ヤングアニマル(2009年16号)
第12話　本当の自分 ……●ヤングアニマル(2009年17号)
第13話　2人の決意 ……●ヤングアニマル(2009年18号)
第14話　葉のない花 ……●ヤングアニマル(2009年19号)
第15話　オバケの正体 ……●ヤングアニマル(2009年20号)
第16話　悲しき覚悟 ……●ヤングアニマル(2009年21号)
第17話　呪いの言葉 ……●ヤングアニマル(2009年22号)
第18話　君はここにいる ……●ヤングアニマル(2009年23号)
最終話　幸せな旅立ち ……●ヤングアニマル(2009年24号)

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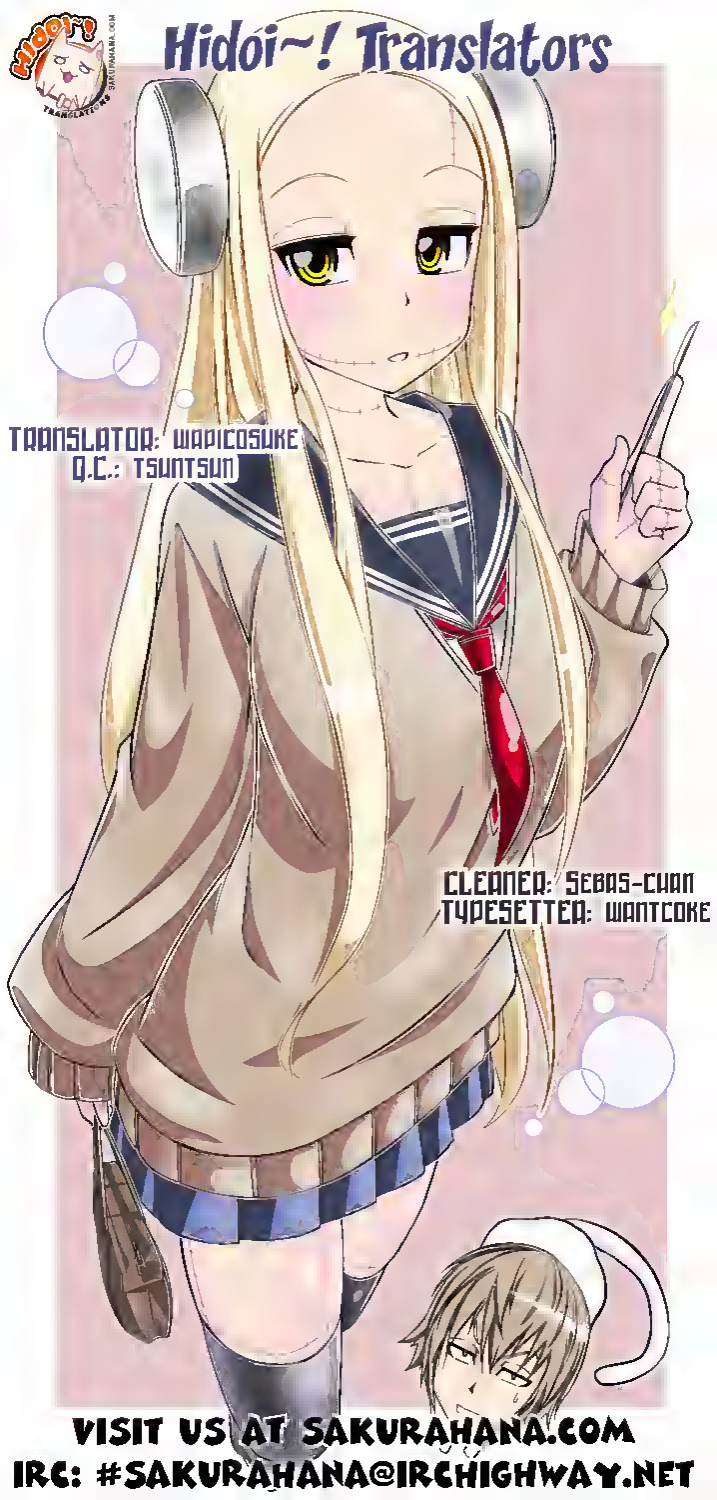
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